



Chancellor William B. Chandler, III

COURT OF CHANCERY

With the transition of the Register in Chancery to a statewide office and the implementation of statewide practices and procedures, the Court of Chancery is now more accessible. On October 20, 2003, the Court of Chancery launched its new electronic filing system. As of that date, all documents filed in pending or new civil action cases are filed electronically only. Thus, the Court of Chancery becomes the first statewide court in the country to adopt e-filing for all of its civil docket, regardless of the amount in controversy. E-filing will enhance the Court's reputation for efficiency, speed and accessibility, as well as reduce the amount of storage space needed for documents filed with the Register in Chancery. With the implementation of the LexisNexis e-filing system, the Court is now accessible not only by all chambers and Register in Chancery staff, but by the bar and the public through internet access. This system has enabled staff to better facilitate the management of the civil actions caseload. The Court of Chancery looks forward to when the COTS initiative will help integrate the Court's entire caseload into one case management system.

The Court of Chancery completed construction of the new Court of Chancery building on The Circle in Georgetown. The support staff and chambers are now consolidated in one building, which facilitates an improved access for the public and the bar.

Finally, in May 2003 the Court was given expanded jurisdiction over technology disputes and the ability to conduct a "mediation only" program for technology and business disputes. The Court recently adopted Rules implementing the new technology jurisdiction and "mediation only" program that were created pursuant to Senate Bill No. 58, which added Sections 346 and 347 to Title 10 of the Delaware Code. The technology dispute jurisdiction, as well as the "mediation only" program, will further expand the services that the Court of Chancery offers to entities incorporated or formed in Delaware, or that have their principal place of business here.

The newest addition to the Court of Chancery is the position of Chief Register in Chancery. The position was added to assist in the implementation of statewide practices and procedures for the Court.



COURT OF CHANCERY



Court of Chancery (standing left to right)

Vice Chancellor John W. Noble
 Vice Chancellor Leo E. Strine Jr.
 Chancellor William B. Chandler III
 Vice Chancellor Stephen P. Lamb
 Vice Chancellor Donald F. Parsons Jr.

Legal Authorization

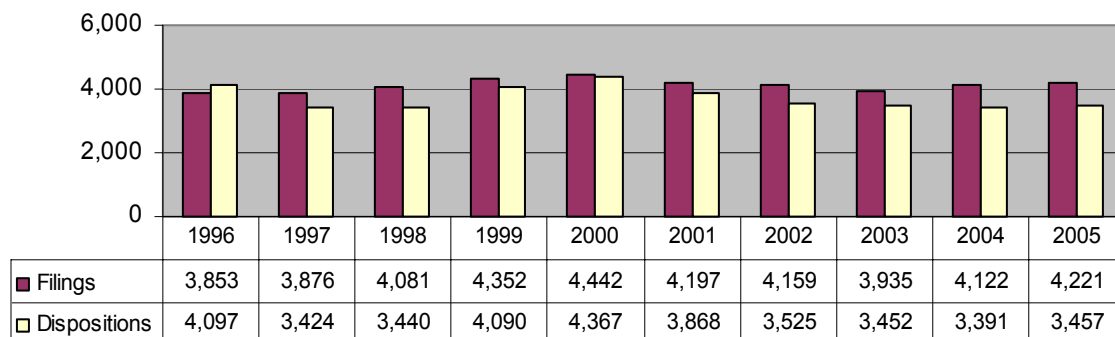
The Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1, authorizes the Court of Chancery.

Court History

The Court of Chancery came into existence as a separate court under the Delaware Constitution of 1792. Its creation contradicted an historical trend in eighteenth century America

away from chancery courts. The Court consisted solely of a chancellor until 1939 when the position of vice chancellor was added. The increase of the Court's workload, since then, has led to further expansions to its present complement of a chancellor and four vice chancellors, with the addition of the fourth vice chancellor being made in 1989.

**10 YEAR CASELOAD TREND
 COURT OF CHANCERY FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS BY FISCAL YEAR**



Geographic Organization

The Court of Chancery holds court in Wilmington, Dover and Georgetown. The chancellor and vice chancellors are nominated by the Governor and must be confirmed by the Senate for 12-year terms. The chancellor and vice chancellors must be learned in the law and must be Delaware citizens.

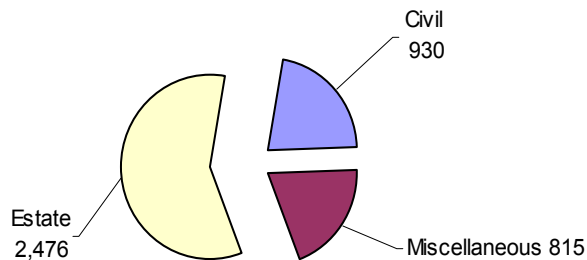
Public Guardian

The chancellor has the duty to appoint the public guardian.

Support Personnel

The Register in Chancery is the clerk of the court for all actions except those within the jurisdiction of the Register of Wills. There is also a chief register who handles general administrative matters.

NUMBER OF COURT OF CHANCERY FILINGS BY TYPE
FY 2005

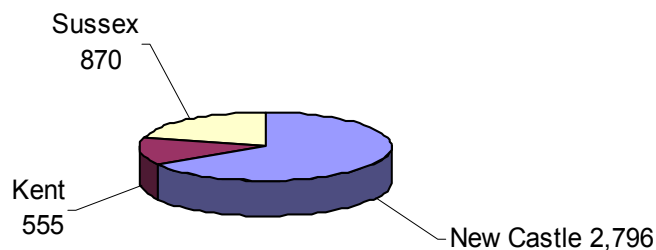


Legal Jurisdiction

The Court of Chancery has jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters and causes in equity. The general equity jurisdiction of the Court is measured in terms of the general equity jurisdiction of the High Court of Chancery of Great Britain as it existed prior to the separation of the American colonies. The General Assembly may confer upon the Court of Chancery additional statutory jurisdiction. In today's practice, litigation in the Court of Chancery consists

largely of corporate matters, trusts, estates, and other fiduciary matters, disputes involving the purchase and sale of land, questions of title to real estate, and commercial and contractual matters in general. When issues of fact to be tried by a jury arise, the Court of Chancery may order such facts to trial by issues at the Bar of the Superior Court (10 *Del.C.* § 369).

NUMBER OF COURT OF CHANCERY FILINGS
BY COUNTY FY 2005



COURT OF CHANCERY



Inside Court of Chancery in Sussex

Court of Chancery—Sussex
Established May 2003

